comply with MPEP 1453, the following claims 5, 12, 18, 24, 29, and 35 containing the amendatory material, are completely underlined to indicate their "new" status when compared to the original, issued patent.

5.      An instructional apparatus, comprising:

a voice recorder capable of recording a vocal message as telephone quality voice input;

a memory medium storing the vocal message prerecorded as telephone quality voice input; and

a playback terminal linked by a transmissive path to the memory medium, wherein the playback terminal is adapted to reproducibly retrieve the vocal message from the memory medium upon receiving from a bar code reader a bar code signal corresponding to the vocal message, wherein the bar code signal results from scanning of a bar code label attachable to a product, and wherein the vocal message is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product.

12.     A method for providing product information, said method comprising:

recording a vocal message as telephone quality voice input;

receiving a bar code signal from a bar code reader, wherein the bar code signal results from scanning of a bar code label attachable to a product; and

retrieving the prerecorded vocal message corresponding to the bar code signal from a memory medium, wherein the vocal message is prerecorded as telephone quality voice input, and wherein the vocal message is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product.

18.     An instructional apparatus, comprising:

a voice recorder capable of recording a vocal message as non-synthesized audio signal;

a memory medium storing the prerecorded, non-synthesized audio signal; and

a playback terminal linked by a transmissive path to the memory medium, wherein the playback terminal is adapted to reproducibly retrieve the audio signal from the memory medium upon receiving from a bar code reader a bar code signal corresponding to the audio

signal, wherein the bar code signal results from scanning of a bar code label attachable to a product, and wherein the audio signal is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product.

24.    A method for providing product information, said method comprising:

recording a vocal message as non-synthesized audio signal;

receiving a bar code signal from a bar code reader, wherein the bar code signal results from scanning of a bar code label attachable to a product; and

retrieving the prerecorded, non-synthesized audio signal corresponding to the bar code signal from a memory medium, wherein the audio signal is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product.

29.    An instructional apparatus, comprising:

a bar code reader operable to scan a bar code label attachable to a product and produce a corresponding bar code signal;

a voice recorder capable of recording a vocal message as telephone quality voice input;

a listening station comprising a speaker and coupled to the bar code reader, wherein the listening station is adapted to receive the bar code signal from the bar code reader, to receive the vocal message corresponding to the bar code signal, and to reproduce and vocalize the vocal message, wherein the vocal message is prerecorded as telephone quality voice input, and wherein the vocal message is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product; and

a retrieval system remotely coupled to the listening station, wherein the retrieval system comprises a memory medium storing the vocal message, and wherein the retrieval system is adapted to reproducibly retrieve the vocal message from the memory medium and transmit the vocal message to the listening station.